

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:
an external electronic device suitable for performing a function;
a controller, the controller including at least one internal module, the internal module providing a controller function; and
a fabric connection communicatively connecting the external device to the controller, wherein the module of the controller is directly accessible by the external electronic device.
2. The apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein the module is accessible by the external electronic device without using an interface chip.
3. The apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein the external electronic device is at least one of a host, second controller and server.
4. The apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein the fabric connection includes at least one of Infiniband and RapidIO.
5. The apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein the fabric connection includes a fabric switch.
6. The apparatus as described in claim 5, wherein the fabric switch operates as a packet-switching element within the fabric.
7. The apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein data stored in an electronic data storage device including the controller includes a globally unique identifier (GUID), so that the external device may identify a location of the stored data.

8. An apparatus, comprising:
an external electronic device suitable for performing a function;
a storage array controller, the storage array controller including at least one internal module, the internal module providing a storage array controller function; and
a fabric connection operable connecting the external device to the storage array controller, wherein the module of the controller is accessible by the external electronic device by directly converting from an external electronic device protocol to an internal storage array controller protocol suitable for communicating with the internal module.
9. The apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the module is accessible by the external electronic device without using an interface chip.
10. The apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the external electronic device is at least one of a host, second controller and server.
11. The apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the fabric connection includes at least one of Infiniband and RapidIO.
12. The apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the fabric connection includes a fabric switch.
13. The apparatus as described in claim 12, wherein the fabric switch operates as a packet-switching element within the fabric.
14. The apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein data stored in an electronic data storage device including the storage array controller includes a globally unique identifier (GUID), so that the external device may identify a location of the stored

data.

15. An apparatus, comprising:
 - a first external device suitable for providing a function;
 - a second external device suitable for providing a function;
 - a controller, the controller including at least one internal module, the internal module providing a controller function; and
 - a fabric connection including a fabric switch operable connecting the first external device, the second external device and the controller, wherein the module of the controller is directly accessible via the fabric switch to at least one of the first external device and the second external device and the fabric connection communicatively connects the first external device to the second external device.
16. The apparatus as described in claim 15, wherein the module is accessible by the first external electronic device without using an interface chip.
17. The apparatus as described in claim 15, wherein at least one of the first external device and the second external electronic device is at least one of a host, second controller and server.
18. The apparatus as described in claim 15, wherein the fabric connection includes at least one of Infiniband and RapidIO.
19. The apparatus as described in claim 15, wherein the fabric switch operates as a packet-switching element within the fabric.

20. A disk array controller, comprising:
- a controller, the controller including at least one internal module, the internal module providing a controller function; and
 - a bypass line directly connected with an internal interconnect of the controller through a switch;
- wherein the at least one internal module of the controller is accessible directly by an input/output module by utilizing the bypass line.

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